

Statement

Resolutions adopted at the Global Convention of People of Indian Origin-2000 (July 21-23, 2000) at Zurich

- (i) Resolution on Adoption and Promulgation of Guidelines to preserve human dignity in visa application procedures. (addressed to the UNO);
- (ii) Resolution on destruction of democracy, racial discrimination against Fijian Indians and violation of their human rights (addressed to the UNO);
- (iii) Resolution on problems of returning non-Resident Indians from the Middle-East;
- (iv) Resolution on Human Rights violations on the downtrodden people of India;
- (v) Resolution on killings of priest of minority communities;
- (vi) Resolution on re-establishment of a Guyana Consulate in New Delhi (Addressed to Govt, of Guyana);
- (vii) Resolution on Rajya Sabha seats for NRIs;
- (viii) Resolution on voting rights for Indian citizens living outside India.

All these resolutions have been sent to the concerned Ministries for appropriate action.

Legal Assistance for Agricultural Workers

*427. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken steps to provide legal assistance for the agricultural workers to ensure their minimum wage and other facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government would pass a comprehensive Central legislation for agricultural labourers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

[25 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(e) what is the assistance given by Government to the agricultural labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. S ATYA NARAYAN JATTIYA): (a) and (b) The minimum wages for the agricultural workers are fixed/revised under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Under the Act, the Central as well the State Governments are the appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages for the workers. The enforcement of the provisions of the Act is secured at two levels *i.e.* State level and Central level.

(c) and (d) The proposal to enact a comprehensive Central legislation for agricultural workers is under consideration of the Government.

(e) Government have undertaken several schemes to provide assistance to people in rural areas including agricultural labour in the country. These are —Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) which has been rechristened as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) w.ei. 1.4.1999, Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth For Self-employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Programmes for the Special Component Plan for SC and Tribal Suo Plan etc. A new programme known as "Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana" has been launched from April, 1999 by amalgamating some of the schemes like IRDP, TRYSEM AND DWCRA. The new programme covers all aspects of self-employment such as organisation of the poor into self-help group, training credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing.

Special action plan for development in flood prone areas

*428. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMIMAHANTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state!

(a) whether Government are aware that no positive impact of various programme for plan development could be made in flood prone areas through Centrally Sponsored Schemes because all kind of investments made during last 50 years became a recurring wastage in such areas;

(b) if so, the causes of failure of the planners to evolve a suitable substitute plan for those areas to prevent this national wastage;